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18 May 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
FOUO No. 635

AFRICA

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ANGOLA EXPECTS SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSIONS TO ESCALATE

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 2 Apr 79 p 28

[Article by Augusta Conchiglia: "The Flight in Front of Pretoria"]

[Excerpts] In spite of the escalation of the South African aggressions, the RPA will continue its untiring support for the SWAPO fighters.

"I say this without cynicism, but I suspect that this Security Council meeting will not prevent South Africa from continuing its activities," said Elisio Figueredo, representative of Angola at the UN, on 19 March.

This is what the Angolan leaders have constantly repeated since the liberation 3 years ago. But although the South African aggressions are continuing and even increasing, the Western powers have still not reacted.

And yet, in a communique dated 21 March, Angolan Defense Minister Iko Carreira states that the military situation in the southern part of the country is becoming very disquieting. From 16 to 26 March, 44 bombers and 26 reconnaissance planes flew over Angolan territory, and 132 tons of fragmentation and napalm bombs were dropped on 13 regions.

But Pretoria paid a high price for these expeditions: 6 aircraft (including 2 Mirages), did not return to base, and 12 airmen were killed. At once, the South African incursions were less frequent on the following days. "Today," Iko Carreira said, "we can no longer be attacked with impunity."

But these murderous raids and maneuvers are not only for the purpose of putting constant pressure on the rear of the liberation movements and discouraging the countries that aid them. They are components of an overall strategy that is aimed at preventing a popular victory in this part of the continent and the consolidation of the progressive regimes established in the vicinity of South Africa.

Moreover, it is obvious that the Pretoria fascists are deliberately trying to internationalize the conflict. By systematically attacking targets (often

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chosen at random) located on Angolan territory, Pretoria would like to induce the Angolan army to cross its borders, in order to provoke a direct confrontation. And although the Angolans are doing nothing of the sort, South Africa accuses them of it anyway. On 15 March, Pretoria complained that a unit of its army that was guarding the Ruacana dam was attacked by Angolan troops. They were, of course, SWAPO fighters; SWAPO has never hidden the fact that it would continue the armed struggle until the signing of a cease-fire, followed by truly free elections.

Although their last aerial bombardments caused them heavy losses, it is not at all excluded that the South Africans will continue the escalation. That is what they think in Luanda and they expect the attacks soon to be directed against strategic civilian targets. Against the Cambambe dam, for example, which is located less than 200 kilometers from Luanda, provides 60 percent of the electricity necessary for the national industrial park, and supplies 3 provinces and the capital itself. If this dam were not aimed at, they say, why would it recently have been flown over by six South African Mirages?

Conspiratorial Attitude

All this, said Mr Figueredo, the Angolan ambassador to the Security Council, results from the fact that "Pretoria has never been willing to have a progressive republic in its vicinity."

Under these conditions, and given the passive -- if not conspiratorial -- attitude of the Western powers, it is understandable that Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge refused to go to New York, on the invitation of the Five Powers, to discuss the modalities of the elections in Namibia once more. At a time when the South Africans are attacking Angola daily, there is no chance, no guarantee of reaching a concrete result on this question.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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GABON-SENEGAL AIR AGREEMENT--An air agreement and a convention of establishment have been signed between Gabon and Senegal, on the occasion of the visit to Libreville by Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of state for foreign affairs, who returned to Dakar on 2 April. The minister led the Senegalese delegation at a session of the mixed Senegalese-Gabonese commission. He specified that the air agreement enables Air Gabon to serve Senegal and the company Air Afrique (of which Senegal is a member) to continue its flights to Gabon. The convention of establishment, on the other hand, grants to the Senegalese living in Gabon the same rights as the Gabonese. In addition, Gabon and Senegal have begun negotiations towards agreements in the matter of social security and posts and telecommunications. A broadening of cooperation in the fields of fishing and research was also decided on. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Apr 79 p 883] 11267

IVORIAN-ANGOLAN AGRICULTURAL PACT--Manuel Pedro Pacavira, Angolan minister of agriculture, recently went to the Ivory Coast for the signing of the basic agreement between the Ivorian government and the OIAC (Inter-African Coffee Organization), of which he is vice president (cf MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS No 1741, 30 March, p 811). On 23 March, he had a talk with his Ivorian counterpart, Denis Bra-Kanon, during which the possibilities for the Ivory Coast's participation in the effort undertaken by Luanda to develop its agriculture were examined. Mr Pacavira indicated that his country is presently experiencing difficulties in this area, all the plantations which belonged to the "Portuguese colonialists" having been abandoned by them at the time of the country's independence. "Our principal problems are those of skilled agricultural technicians and equipment," added the minister, who indicated that Angola desired to receive the aid of Ivorian technicians specializing in the sectors of coffee and the oil palm. In recent years, the Ivory Coast has achieved remarkable results in these two areas, as is known, since it has become the leading African producer and exporter, and No 3 in the world (after Brazil and Colombia in coffee, and behind Malaysia and Indonesia in palm oil). [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Apr 79 p 891] 11267

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CUBAN INFILTRATION FROM CONGO--Ever since Colonel Sassou Niguesso replaced Mr Opango as head of government in the Congo each department on the general staff has been headed by a Cuban officer. Far from confining themselves to Pointe-Noire, the Cuban soldiers, who continue to arrive, are infiltrating northward in the direction of Cameroon and the Central African Empire where the throne of Bokassa I is threatened. [Text] [Paris VALEURS ACTUELLES in French 12 Mar 79 p 40] 7779

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ANGOLA

FRENCH-ANGOLAN RELATIONS LIKELY TO DEVELOP HARMONIOUSLY

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 2 Apr 79 p 45

[Excerpts] "The People's Republic of Angola has only one ambition: peace, but that peace must be a true peace, and therefore could not put up with either colonial or racist oppression nor the repression established as an institution in the southern part of our continent, on our borders."

Luis J. d'Almeida, the new RPA ambassador to France, expressed himself in these terms upon presenting his credentials to President Giscard d'Estaing on 15 March.

"Factors against our will," emphasized Mr d'Almeida, who is also ambassador to Brussels, "have in the past caused a certain lack of understanding between our governments -- a lack of understanding that unfortunately did not permit a harmonious development of our relations, as we would have liked."

Finally, the ambassador stated that "the development of these relations requires a better understanding of our domestic reality -- an understanding that is even more necessary because unfounded judgments, which some people are still trying to instigate, have created mistrust between us and given a distorted, false picture of our country and our leaders."

As for the French head of state, he emphasized that the presence of the Angolan ambassador in Paris is a sign "that a new leaf has been turned over, and that the period beginning between Paris and Luanda will be one of dialogue, good will, and mutual understanding, with a constant concern in both parties to respect the choice of the other."

Moreover, Mr Giscard d'Estaing said that there are "broad prospects for ample, effective French-Angolan cooperation."

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

CUBAN PHYSICIAN CAPTURED BY UNITA--UNITA declares in a communique that it captured a Cuban military physician last February. The prisoner, Rodriguez Massana, 28, was captured, according to the communique, in an ambush staged a few kilometers southwest of Bailundo, in Huambo province. "His companions, Cuban mercenaries, fled, while others were seriously wounded," adds UNITA, which goes on to state that since the beginning of the year, it has destroyed 4 military posts, killed 198 "of the enemy, including 11 Cubans," and "liberated 3,000 inhabitants." Finally, UNITA denounces "the constantly growing presence of Cuban forces on Angolan soil," putting the figure at 28,000 men. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Apr 79 p 891] 11267

ANGRY FAPLA REACTION LIKELY--The headquarters of the Angolan People's Armed Liberation Forces (FAPLA) has formally denied the South African statements that its troops attacked a South African post. Once more, the South Africans had invented a pretext (anything is good enough for them) to justify their constant aggressions against the People's Republic of Angola. Commander D. Noises (Ndozi) stated: "The FAPLA cannot be held responsible for the repeated provocations of the racists who constantly attack our country." In addition, Commander "Ndozi" said that the FAPLA is out of patience, and cannot always refrain from reacting to these aggressions. [Excerpts] [Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 2 Apr 79 p 46] 8429

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

BUDGET BALANCED BY GRANTS, FOREIGN AID IN 1979

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET Mediterraneens in French 6 Apr 79 p 882

[Text] The 1979 Budget: 27.2 million CFA Francs

Unlike last year's, the Central African budget for 1979 is a balanced one, but it should be noted that this came about only thanks to foreign grants and aid (1.5 billion CFA) and recourse to loans (2.65 billion), as the table shows.

Predicted revenues are up overall by 20.2 percent, with indirect taxes, revenues from state lands their resources heading the list of gainers.

There are a few innovations in the 1979 budget in this respect:

- inclusion of the coffee fund payment (1.65 billion). This fund has been obliged since 1977 to pay the Treasury 55 percent of its tax receipts on the value of coffee exports; until now, this payment had not been included in the budget.
- Doubling of the tax on Mocaf beer, from 40 F CFA/liter to 80, which is expected to bring in 2.5 billion, which will be put into the autonomous fund for retirement of state debts (CAADE);
- Creation of a 500-million-CFA highway fund, to be supported by a tax on fuels;
- inclusion in the budget of health insurance subscription cards (200 million).

Spending projects are down 1.4 percent, with a 31.1-percent cut-back in capital expenditures offset by a 9.3-percent increase in operating expenses.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE BUDGET

(in thousands of Francs CFA)

	1979	1978
REVENUES:		
Tax revenues	19,061,200	18,460,500
Revenues from State lands	325,200	254,000
Miscellaneous revenues from		
services and sundry products.....	575,000	969,400
Grants, subsidies, aid funds	1,500,000	2,100,000
Returns on completed investments.....	-	22,000
Earmarked revenues.....	3,050,000	820,000
Loans.....	2,655,177	-
TOTAL REVENUES.....	27,193,566	22,625,900
EXPENDITURES:		
Operating Expenses:		
Committed public spending (pensions).....	4,627	4,627
Service costs	16,285,900	14,633,648
Joint expenditures.....	2,461,818	2,803,912
State intervention.....	3,372,332	2,791,733
TOTAL OPERATING Exp.....	22,124,677	20,233,920
Capital Expenditures:		
Service on loans and debt.....	2,500,000	2,780,798
General and statistical studies.....	14,300	8,000
Production.....	788,150	1,599,395
Communications infrastructures	867,000	641,500
Social and community facilities	540,260	1,820,760
Miscellaneous contributions	359,200	409,200
TOTAL CAPITAL Exp.....	5,068,900	7,359,653
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,193,577	27,593,573

The government has put forth special efforts to cut spending by earmarking the bulk of its resources to operating costs which are fixed, and hence not patient of cutbacks.

The fact is that 62 percent of that spending consists of staff salaries (50.4 percent of it for permanent staff alone). The appropriations for scholarships to vocational schools and universities are also high on the list of gainers, up from 573 to 1,427 million, for a gain of 67 percent.

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Six government departments get almost 80 percent of the appropriations: "Service Means," Education, Defense, Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture. The biggest increases in appropriations went to Foreign Affairs (up 38.3 percent), Defense (up 26.8 percent), and Education (up 10 percent).

The clearest reflection of the will to cut expenditures is to be seen in the slashing of capital expenditures, quite in line with the views of the austerity-minded budget writers. The only increases in capital expenditures are those for roads and highway infrastructures.

It should be pointed out that insofar as repayment of loans is concerned, the CAADE will henceforth be responsible for repayment of all debt, not merely arrears in payment. However, since the Fund's sole source of revenues is the tax on local beer consumption, settlement of the nation's debts depends entirely on the population's thirst for Mocaf beer.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

BRIEFS

UGCT CONGRESS--The Central African Workers' Union met in extraordinary congress at Bangui on 3-5 March. At the opening session, presided over by Emperor Bokassa I, UGCT Secretary-General Fred-Patrice Liblakenze attested his willingness to engage in dialogue with the government as well as with the employers. In his view it will require a twofold reform to restore labor peace in the CAE: management will have to stop looking at the union as an enemy, and do all in its power to work for the nation's development; the workers must change their mindset and make room for gratitude to the man who provides them with jobs. Delegate speeches all reflected the UGCT's readiness to help the government in its stated determination to speed the CAE's development pace. At the close of the congress all bodies elected at the 3rd congress in April 1977 were returned to office. Mr Zemoniako-Lilbakenze, who is also mayor of Bangui, will remain UGCT General Secretary for another 3 years. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 30 Mar 79 p 818] 6182

FRENCH AID TO ACCF--Mr Michel Landry, head of the French aid and cooperation mission in Bangui and Mr Jean-Pierre Le Boudier, CAE minister for planning, statistics, and international cooperation, signed an agreement on 12 March calling for FAC aid to the Central African River Communications Agency (ACCF) in the amount of 150 million CFA francs. The money will go to buy equipment, spare parts, and radio systems. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 30 Mar 79 p 818] 6182

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CHAD

KANO AGREEMENT'S SIGNERS MUST COMBAT ETHNIC DIVISIONS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 23 Mar 79 p 730

[Text] FROLINAT [Chad National Liberation Front] had to wait more than 10 years for full recognition by the political authorities in N'djamena. Henceforth it will be an accepted fact. This historic development is essentially the outcome of the Kano conference from which few observers, it will be recalled, expected any positive results. For the first time different factions of the rebel organization and not just one of its pre-government elements is participating in Chad's central government.

President Tombalbaye had called for help from French troops in 1968 in order to cope with what he described as the activities of "pillagers" and "bandits" in Tibesti. In view of the fact that today these pillagers have brought about the recognition by all of the parties involved in the Chadian conflict of the political nature of the fighting that resulted from protests against extortion by Sara officials, France has naturally seen the consequences of this new situation that has emerged from the Kano conference. If an internal consensus, strengthened by encouragements from neighboring countries, appeared to safeguard the unity and the sovereignty of Chad, the presence of French troops will no longer be maintained since "their mission would have dissolved," as Mr Pierre Hunt, an Elysee spokesman, put it on 20 March 1979.

A defense committee meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysee that same day had just decided on the "progressive withdrawal" of the French troops (more than 2,500 men) stationed in Chad. This is being done "in agreement with the Chadian authorities."

The Chadian government will be changing its structure beginning on 23 March 1979 (see the accompanying article on the content of the Kano agreements). It will be some time before a definitive attitude will emerge regarding France's role in the military area and the civil cooperation area.

Even though the Kano conference amounts to a decisive step toward a return to peace in Chad the new authorities will be put to a severe test. They will have to get the modern sector of Chad's economy in gear again and re-

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store confidence. It will be necessary to continue the projects that are currently underway and rejuvenate those that had been abandoned due to the military situation. It is important that the Kano agreements not be confined to paper and that they be realized in the form of national reconciliation.

This is not impossible, in spite of what has been said and in spite of the publicity in the press about the massacre of perhaps several thousand moslems in the country's southern regions.

The ethnic situation in Chad is no more unusual than that found in its immediate neighbors and the majority of African countries. If one were to define a moslem from the north as a Dar-el-Islam, his ethnic unity does not exist. The divisions within FROLINAT that have been exacerbated by this diversity are proof enough. Nor is the south unified. In fact, where does the south begin? The antagonism between the Sara of the plains and the "Hadjeray" montagnards, or that between the moslems and the partially christianized Sara, are further evidence.

The only question that should be asked at present is whether or not those who signed the Kano agreement, the various representatives of whom will have to form a government in Ndjamena, will act in good faith on their stated desire to preserve Chad's unity and effectively fight the forces that are threatening to tear the country apart, particularly those that are rooted in ethnic division.

In this whole matter, the encouragement of neighboring countries will be essential. But it is also a good bet that Chad will call upon France for assistance, at least of a civil nature, in order to put itself back on the road to development.

The withdrawal of French troops announced by the Elysee reflects the desire for appeasement and a realization of the often cited principle: "Africa for the Africans." It certainly doesn't follow that France will in the future be indifferent to Chad's domestic situation. The role of former colonial power has its obligations. If Paris fulfills these obligations in the future with exactitude and perseverance it cannot help but win the friendship of Chad as well as the rest of Africa.

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CHAD

AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR CEASE-FIRE THROUGHOUT CHAD SIGNED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 23 Mar 79 p 730

[Text] An agreement was signed in Kano (Bagauda) on 15 March 1979 following 5 days of negotiations between parties involved in the Chadian question.

Participants included the president of Chad, General Malloum, Prime Minister Hissein Habre, two FROLINAT (National Front for the Liberation of Chad) factions represented by the Teda (Tibbu) chief from Tibesti, Goukouni Oueddei, and a Daza leader from Kanem, Aboubakar Abdrhamane, as well as the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Chad, the former "FROLINAT Third Army," and ministerial delegations from Nigeria, Niger, the Sudan, Cameroon, and Libya.

A delegation representing Dr Abba Siddick's following within FROLINAT attended the signing of the agreement but did not participate in the discussions. Mr Aoyi Ahmad, head of FROLINAT-VOLCAN, which is active in Ouaddai, was not present but recently stated that he was ready to respect the Kano agreement as soon as French troops leave Chad.

The agreements are to take effect on 23 March 1979. A second conference in Bagauda is planned for 1 April 1979 in order to verify the implementation of the agreement.

The document that was signed by the various parties named above, a copy of which was provided by AFP, provides for a cease-fire throughout Chad. It orders neutrality on the part of Chad radio and the demilitarization of Ndjamena. All armed forces will be required to remain at least 100 km from the capital.

Observers from neighboring countries (Cameroon, Libya, Niger, and the Sudan), whose safety will be guaranteed by exclusively Nigerian "neutral troops," will monitor the application of the agreement's provisions. Unrestricted movement of civilians will also be guaranteed.

The signers of the agreement have also decided to establish an independent control commission that will be headquartered in Ndjamena. It will be composed of two representatives from each of the four neighboring countries,

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plus Nigeria which will chair the commission, and a representative of each of the four Chadian factions that signed the agreement. The commission's mission will be to oversee the application of the cease-fire and the neutrality of radio broadcasts as well as the prevention of pirate radio broadcasts. It will also monitor the establishment of a transition government of national unity that was provided for by the agreements.

This government, composed of the four factions that signed the agreement and open to all recognized movements that accept the agreement, will become the sole Chadian governmental authority after 23 March 1979. It will have to apply the decision for a general amnesty (release of all political detainees and all prisoners of war) that was part of the Kano agreement. It will also concern itself with the return of Chadian exiles. This government will determine the country's political future. Free elections will then be organized.

The presence of French troops in Chad is the sole prerogative of the government of national unity.

All of the present institutions in the country will be dissolved on 23 March 1979. This includes the presidency, the present government, the defense committee, and the national unity cabinet, all established by the charter of August 1978. There will also be a general reassignment to all posts of responsibility and a dissolution of the present military forces in favor of a unified army.

The agreement's preamble emphasizes the determination of all the parties to "preserve Chad's unity and integrity." It also underscores their desire to "reestablish peace, security, and confidence at all levels."

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CHAD

SOUTHERN CHADIANS SAID TO BE ORGANIZING POLITICALLY

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 2 May 79 p 22

[Article by Jos-Blaise Alima: "Southern Chadians Organize"]

[Text] Chadian diplomats abroad find themselves in an uncomfortable situation. Since the beginning of February they have been effectively cut off from their homeland and have received no directives from Government authorities. "No Chadian diplomat has received his salary since the month of January," Pierre Toura Gaba, Chadian ambassador to Washington, confided to us in a recent telephone conversation.

According to certain rumors, which he denies, Mr Gaba was alleged to have gone to Bangui recently to speak with Emperor Bokassa on behalf of the FUS [Front Uni du Sud; United Southern Front], an insurrectionist movement which is trying to work out something with Southerners, who are convinced that cohabitation with Northerners has become impossible.

The man who, rightly or wrongly, is currently being represented as a secessionist leader is an old hand at the political profession. Along with Gabriel Lisette, of Antillean origin, he founded the PPT [Parti progressiste tchadien; Chadian Progressive Party], and represented his country at the Constitutional Congress of the RDA [Rassemblement democratique africain; African Democratic Assemblage] at Bamako in October 1946. In his role as minister of agriculture in the first Government of the independent nation of Chad after 1958, Pierre Toura Gaba appeared to be a favorite in the race for the presidency. But France was to make a different choice: Francois Tombalbaye, who after independence made Pierre Toura Gaba his minister of foreign affairs. Dissensions were not long in arising within the new Government, however, and office-holders who got in the way were soon ejected.

Gaba was among this group. Accused of subversion, he was arrested in July 1962 and deported to the BET [expansion unknown] where

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he was to remain for a number of years before being liberated and reinstated. Thus in 1967 he was appointed ambassador to the FRG. For Pierre Toura Gaba, however, this appointment was not a promotion. The head of state had taken this step in order to keep him at a distance.

The break came in December 1973. Gaba noisily announced his resignation and created an opposition movement which was kept rather quiet, establishing himself in Europe. His political future seemed compromised when Tombalbaye's Government was overthrown in April 1975. The military committee which took control in N'Djamena sent out an appeal to the few engineers of the country, and this was the occasion for bringing Toura Gaba back into circulation. General Malloum first made him his diplomatic advisor and then sent him to Washington in 1977.

This, then, is the man who is looked upon as the spokesman for the demands of Chadian Southerners. He would be the last to deny the existence in the minds of his "racial brothers" of a deeplying sentiment of frustration born of the events of February. From his deluxe office in the now famous Watergate Complex on the banks of the Potomac, however, he vehemently disavows claims that he is the coordinator of FUS activities.

"The man who wants to kill his dog claims that it has rabies," says Toura Gaba. And he harshly criticizes the poisonous campaign now raging in Chad: "Everything is happening as if they absolutely wanted to force the Southerners into making a last-ditch stand."

Nonetheless, the existence of a United Southern Front is a fact, and its origins go back to the dark days of the civil war. It was then a question of a simple assemblage of high officials and dignitaries of the former Government, all natives of the South.

The regional nature of the movement could leave no doubt as to its goals, chief of which was to organize the movement towards the South of those population groups whose safety could no longer be assured in the capital and in the northern part of the country. But it was also necessary to convince these officials to regain their posts, and this was no easy task: first, because the present power remained basically unstable; but also because certain Western nations were not afraid to voice their sympathy for the creation of a "Logone Nation" in the South, designated as a "serviceable Chad" by reason of its economic and human potential.

Meetings were held periodically among Southerners either at Doba or Sarh, to "straighten out details." Was the secession to be declared?

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Everything would depend ultimately on the manner in which the members of the Provisional National Council succeeded in resolving the present tensions. Absence of a consensus could in fact persuade the strong man of the South, Colonel Wadal Kamougue, to cross the Rubicon. The former chief of the state police is now more than ever the catalyst in the situation. It is his attitude that will either topple the balance and move the South toward secession or else preserve the unity of the nation.

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GHANA

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC SITUATION REPORTEDLY SOMBER--In a recent bulletin, dated 30 March, the OBCE (Belgian Office of Foreign Trade) draws a rather somber picture of Ghana's present economic and financial situation. The Office stresses that lacking foreign exchange, and therefore unable to procure the necessary import licenses, most of the firms, which depend on foreign sources for 90 percent of their raw materials supplies, are operating at only 20 percent of their capacity, and that the two main income-producing products--cocoa and lumber--are steadily increasing their sharp decline, while inflation and smuggling, on the other hand, are reaching disturbing proportions. In summary, the Office has little faith in the beneficial effects of the austerity budget which went into effect last September (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 22 September, p 2521), and it sees no improvement of the situation appearing in the short term. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Apr 79 p 878] 11267

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LIBERIA

RESULTS OF PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE NOTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 30 Mar 79 p 815

[Article: "President Tolbert in official visit to France: A Widened Cooperation"]

[Text] The official French visit, from 22 to 24 March, of the Liberian chief of state, Mr William Tolbert, is an event that will make its mark, in the sense that it will spectacularly give concrete expression to the wish expressed by France, to establish relations of balanced cooperation not only with the African Francophone countries, but also with all the other countries of the continent.

This wish had already expressed itself clearly in the trip taken from 4 to 12 December in Anglophone and Lusophone West Africa by the secretary of state for Foreign Affairs, Mr Oliver Stirn. This trip, while it was directly linked to the visit that President Valery Giscard d'Estaing was going to pay to Guinea, should also be seen in the context of the preparations for the Franco-African conference of Kigali, as well as in that of the wider project, dear to Paris, of the creation of an Eurafrique (MTM 22 Dec p 3982).

Liberia had at that time been the first non-Francophone country to agree to sending an observer at the next Franco-African conference in Kigali next May. Its chief of state and that of Sierra Leone had both agreed to come to France in the beginning of this year, the former on an official visit, and the latter in a private capacity. When he received the Liberian minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Cecil Dennis, on 6 February, Mr Oliver Stirn was supposed to confirm the arrival of Mr Tolbert, as well as the presence of a Liberian observer at the Franco-African summit, and he was expected to emphasize the fact that Mr Tolbert would be the next president of the Organization of African Unity (MTM 9 Feb p 323). This organization is to hold a summit in Monrovia in July.

Liberia, where the French president will most likely go on an official visit in the course of this year, and which he sees as a factor of equilibrium in Africa and a link between progressives and conservatives, will

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also occupy the front of the African stage in the following months. With good reason we devoted to Liberia two important articles--one of them purely economic, in our issues of 20 and 27 October 1978, and the other of a more general nature under the title, "Liberia, Essential Link in an Euro-African Policy," in our 2 March issue. Indeed, we pointed out at the time of the publication of this second article, that an economic mission of the DREE [Direction of External Economic Relations] was expected to be in Monrovia from 5 to 8 March, and that another economic mission, that of the CNPF [National Council of French Employers] was going to be there in April.

Mr Tolbert's sojourn in Paris was, therefore, not an isolated event, and it belongs in the context of exchanges and relations on the personal level, before these evolve into trade and cooperation.

The conversations which the Liberian president had with Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing and with the prime minister, Mr Barre, as well as with other persons in the political world, seem to have been fruitful, even though they sometimes touched upon delicate subjects--such as that of the houses of pleasure in front of the Intergovernmental Consultative Maritime Organization (OMCI), and that of respect for present regulations concerning payment for damages caused by a ship (the Amoco Cadiz, for example). These points were, it must be noted, mentioned "quite firmly" by Mr Barre.

It was in a climate of cordiality that various minor diplomatic and political differences were brought to light--notably on the subject of French intervention in Shaba, or of Western, particularly French dealings with Southern Africa. These differences seem to have been ultimately resolved (President Tolbert, observers believe, has never had real personnel grievances against France, only formal grievances). Paris and Monrovia have therefore decided to work more than ever together, notably for the OAU [Organization of African Unity], whose vigor they want to restore on the occasion of its next summit. But, in exchange, the French prime minister expressed the wish that the African state take advantage of its position of president of the Organization to carry out the idea suggested by President Giscard d'Estaing--of another summit, which would be tripartite, including Europeans, Arabs and Africans.

On the other hand--in this case on a purely bilateral plane--the two countries rejoiced at the common agreement to develop their relations.

President Tolbert disclosed that a French firm had completed in Monrovia last year one of the most modern bridges ever built, and that another one would be finished in a few months. But he expressed the wish that French firms located in Liberia--about 20 at the moment--instead of dealing only with communications and forestry, should also concern themselves with such sectors as the food industry, fishing, housing and port installations.

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Two Accords of Cooperation

Two accords signed on 23 March by Mr. James T. Phillips, Liberian minister of Finance who was accompanying President Tolbert, and his French opposite number Mr Monory, should promote cooperation.

One of these accords, drawn up last 27 January, concerns mutual promotion and protection of investments. It sets up incentives for the development of French investments in Liberia, thus assuring better protection of the interests of both parties.

As for the second accord, prepared in Monrovia at the beginning of March in three days of negotiations behind closed doors, it sets up a framework within which economic and technical cooperation between the two countries will develop. This cooperation had, indeed, been the subject of a meeting on 3 March, day of the signing, between President Tolbert himself and Mr Oliver Stirn.

At the present time the total of bilateral assistance between France and Liberia amounts to 400,000 dollars. This aid includes, notably, the presence of a counselor for French Studies and six French professors teaching at the University of Monrovia, in secondary schools, and at the Institute of French Studies which opened last year. This institute is equipped with an audio-visual laboratory furnished by France. Two French experts are also working in the Liberian rubber industry. Finally, within the framework of this assistance, France offers to 22 young Liberians the opportunity to study in France.

After leaving Paris and before returning to his country, the Liberian chief of state was going to Algiers, on 25 March, for "a visit of friendship and work" lasting four hours, in the course of which he met with his opposite number, Mr Chadli bendjedid. His conversations were centered essentially around the problems of the Western Sahara, Southern Africa, the Near East and inter-African conflicts, precisely within the perspective of the coming summit meeting of the OAU.

Finally, immediately upon his return to Monrovia on the evening of the 25th, the Liberian president congratulated himself on the results of his trip, and the accords that were its fruit, and he expressed the assurance that the cooperation and friendship between the two countries would grow.

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LIBERIA

BRIEFS

FRG AID--The German Federal Republic has promised to make a grant of DM 20.2 million to Liberia, following a visit to Bonn by a Liberian delegation headed by Mr Franklin Neal, minister of the Economy and the Plan, between 19 and 21 March. Of this amount, DM 9.2 million will be allocated to technical aid, notably for an integrated program of development in the Nimba region, and the remaining DM 11 million will be used to finance a supply of drinking water for the population. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 30 Mar 79 p 815]

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MAURITIUS

IMPLICATIONS OF SUCCESS OF LIBYAN VISIT DISCUSSED

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIA in French 2-15 Apr 79 pp 24-25

[Article by Herve Masson: "Reconversion of Ramgoolam? After a visit to Libya, will Mauritius leaders reorient their whole policy?"]

[Text] "Our visit to Libya will have been a 'historic mission'," Mauritian prime minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, declared upon his return to the island. It was at the end of a week's sojourn in Libyan Jamahiriya, where a Mauritian delegation had gone to negotiate with Colonel Kadhafi for economic and financial aid.

Since 1977 the island of Mauritius has had to face a grave economic crisis, which became more serious in 1978. The foreign debt amounts to more than a billion and a half francs, that is to say the equivalent of a quarter of the PNB [Gross National Product] of Mauritius. The price of sugar has gone down spectacularly on the world market, which poses a serious problem for this one-crop country. Production of tea, which had until now been totally absorbed in South Africa, no longer finds buyers, as Pretoria refuses to pay a preferential tariff for this "tea of poor quality." The Western powers and the World Bank are more and more reticent. The national budget for operations and development has shown, for several years, a frightening deficit. It is consequently indispensable for the Mauritian Government to find a new source of economic aid. The prime minister therefore decided to address himself to Libya.

After a week's stay in Tripoli he obtained satisfaction. The Mauritian delegation returned to Mauritius in a state of euphoria. The Arab Socialist Popular Republic of Libya will train cadres and will provide scholarships to Mauritian students in various disciplines. It will recruit qualified workers to go to work in Libyan Jamahiriya, and will finance a housing plan. Furthermore, Libya will be ready to buy, in 1980, 3,500 tons of Mauritian tea, even though it is "of poor quality," in order to help Mauritius overcome its dependence on South Africa. In its totality, Libyan aid will amount to nearly 200 million rupees (140 million francs).

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But this aid has not been granted without compensation. It remains conditional. The Mauritian Government had, in effect, to resign itself to revising its foreign policy, heretofore "moderate" and practically aligned with the West. While providing its aid, the Libyan Government will make judgments ad seriatim. The twists, turns and contradictions of Mauritian diplomacy are, indeed, too well known to invite giving credence to mere promises and situational declarations. But one may bet that, since he has derived the quintessence of what he can hope for from Western aid, since he is growing old (he is 79) and is, at heart, sincerely nationalistic, the prime minister will keep his word, at least for the time being.

However that may be, Sir Ramgoolam has signed a joint communique which commits him, and which risks causing some commotions in the OAU, particularly in the Indian Ocean. One may judge for oneself: The joint Mauritio-Libyan communique pledges cooperation, solidarity and struggle against racism and imperialism; the Mauritian Government commits itself to "taking political action in concert with the Libyan Jamahiriya in international forums." The two parties express the opinion that armed struggle is the only way to liberate the oppressed peoples of Africa, notably, of course, those of Southern Africa.

They commit themselves to upholding all liberation movements which are struggling in Africa against racism and colonialism. They demand the dismantling of imperialist bases installed on African soil. They advocate, in the Western Sahara, a just and equitable peace which "would take into account the will of its inhabitants."

Furthermore, the two delegations condemned all attempts at a Mid-East settlement which would not take into account the rights of the Palestinian people. They commit themselves to lending their support to the latter's struggle for restoring their rights, including those of returning to their country and "living as in a free and independent nation." Finally, the Port-Louis daily LE MAURICIEN affirms that Sir Ramgoolam committed himself to supporting any motion presented to the OAU concerning the independence of Reunion island. In short, in this joint communique the Mauritian Government commits itself to a policy radically opposed to the one they had previously practiced.

One can imagine the repercussions that such a reversal of policy cannot fail to cause in political (and economic) circles in countries along the coast of this portion of the Indian Ocean. These repercussions are likely to lead to serious rifts, notably in Pretoria and among partisans of the French department of Reunion. One may even expect reprisals. The island of Mauritius is totally dependent on South Africa for the importation of some food products of prime necessity. Furthermore, the Port-Louis Government was preparing to ask for an increase of French aid (30 million rupees, that is 20 million francs), profiting from the visit to Mauritius of Mr Robert Galley, French minister of Cooperation. It is to be expected that the French Reunion department lobby will exert pressure on the French

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minister to refuse this increase. Finally, South Africa and Reunion are, by far, the two principal clients of Mauritius in the tourist trade, the island's second industry after sugar!

What Will the Future Bring?

Another repercussion not to be neglected is the likely response of the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party] of Gaetan Duval, indispensable partner of the Labor Party in the coalition Government. Mr Duval and his friends are particularly close to Pretoria, and are by tradition known as the strongest defenders of the policy of Western imperialist alignment.

If the PMSD should choose to withdraw from the Government coalition, the prime minister would have to choose between the expected general elections (which he would find distasteful) and a spectacular rapprochement with the MMM [Mauritian Militant Movement], the only opposition party represented in Parliament. The MMM has, indeed, always advocated the progressive diplomatic postures which the Mauritian Government is preparing to defend henceforth. To refuse its support to the Government on this very issue would be most inappropriate.

Are things moving toward a real redistribution of the political cards on the island of Mauritius, with all that this would imply for that whole region of the Southwestern Indian Ocean? Or else is this only a brush fire? It remains for the near future to tell us.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

NATIONALIZATIONS ROUNDUP FOR 1978--During 1978, the office of industrial production and trade control in the Mozambican province of Sofala, which has responsibility for 345 abandoned enterprises, went ahead with changeover or merger of some of them. Others were transferred to the competence of certain ministries or mass democratic structures. [Excerpt] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 6 Apr 79 p 891] 11267

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ZAMBIA

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS BALANCED 1979 BUDGET

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 30 Mar 79
p 886

[Text] The 1979 budget for Zambia, presented to the Lusaka Parliament in late January by Mr Joshua Lumina, minister of finance and technical cooperation, is in balance at 849.4 million kwacha (1 KZ = 5.45 French francs).

Revenues will cover 483.9 million KZ of the government's regular resources, and the balance of 265.5 KZ will be covered by various loans (41 million KZ in domestic loans, 149.5 in foreign loans, and 75 million KZ in short-term bank loans).

Ordinary expenditures will amount to 725.5 million KZ, 321 million of which will go to the ministries and 123.9 million of which will be earmarked for investment spending.

Budgeted expenditures for the government departments break down as follows (in millions of KZ):

Education and Culture	108.5
Agriculture and Water.....	48.3
Health.....	55.4
Public Works.....	22.4
Police.....	28.2

In presenting the budget to Parliament, Mr Lumina pointed out that regular spending will increase only slightly in 1979 over the previous year, when it amounted to 725 million KZ, and that investment spending will be lower, down from 154.8 million to 123.9 million KZ.

The 1978 budget was presented at the time as the expression of an austerity policy. The government's objective today, however, is a substantial reduction in Zambia's balance of payments deficit,

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although the economic picture failed to improve over the year. Given that state of affairs, only essential public services (GRZ) will be funded by suitable budgetary measures.

Fiscal Measures

Pending complete regulation of prices and wages, the rules for which are to be announced in April, wages in the public sector have been frozen and those in the private sector limited to increases of 6 percent per month. Price controls have been lifted to enable companies to ask more "realistic" retail prices for their products.

So as to soften the impact of inflation on household incomes, direct income taxes will be reduced by 5 percent as of 1 April 1979, and corporate incomes will be taxed at 48 percent instead of the present 50 percent level.

On the other hand, excise taxes on beer will go up by 5 ngwee (1 ngwee = 0.01 KZ) per bottle, and the tax on gasoline will go up by 2 ngwee per liter. Taxes on mineral products will rise from 10 to 20 percent of value.

Economic Policy

Mr Lumina spelled out the government's economic policy for 1979. In addition to lowering the balance of payments deficit, mentioned above, and payment of arrears on orders placed abroad, it will be oriented toward increasing production, creating new jobs, cushioning the impact of inflation on the people's standard of living, cutting down on government loans from private banks (75 million KZ in 1979 in place of the 107 million KZ in 1978), and attracting new investors to Zambia.

The minister told Parliament that he views the future of Zambia's economy with "very prudent optimism." Performance by the mining sector in 1978 was in fact better than in 1977. The mining companies are in healthier financial shape. Copper production, 654,000 tons in 1978, was down slightly, but the spectacular upsurge in cobalt prices had a general tonic effect. Manufacturing production was up in real value by 7 percent, whereas it had declined by 6.2 percent in 1977. Allowance must be made, however, for the 10-percent devaluation of the kwacha in 1978.

Inflation will be curbed somewhat, Mr Lumina said, but would still be running at around 17 percent annually. Currency in circulation over the 12-month period ending in September 1978, dropped by 8.7 percent.

Of the total aid of 357.6 million KZ in SDRs obtained from the IMF, Zambia in 1978 153 million, and the Fund is expected to

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be satisfied with the control measures written into the Zambian budget. Along these lines, it is noteworthy that state subsidies will be cut back from 44.2 million KZ in 1978 to 30.4 million KZ in 1979. For agriculture, among others, they will be slashed by a third for corn, dropping to 12 million KZ. Subsidies for the purchase of fertilizer (4.3 million KZ in 1978) will be abolished.

Controls will be kept on imports, despite the slight rise in the value of exports in 1978. There are no grounds for expecting any growth in manufacturing production in those sectors which depend on imports for their plants or their raw materials.

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